

CM/ECF Project Update

September, 2003

Electronic filing will be required for all attorneys as of January 1, 2004.

We have expanded our training schedule to provide two classes on each published training date beginning with Oct. 24th in Portland. There will be more available seating for each class beginning with November 3rd in Bangor. If you've tried to schedule a class and haven't been able to, please call again. But please be sure that you, your staff and your office are "ECF ready" so that you can meet our requirement and begin e-filing within two weeks after you're trained. If you have several people in one firm (attorneys and support staff) who would like to train together, which is recommended, and have a convenient date in mind that's not already on the schedule, please call us and we'll try to accommodate you. Otherwise, please select one of the formal training dates and sign up. All scheduled training dates through the end of the year can be found on this web site. We have scheduled October 29 & 30 for training in Presque Isle.

Once you've registered for training, please let us know in advance if you have to cancel. We have limited openings, and limited staff, and a last-minute cancellation leaves us with empty seats that someone else could have used. Our classes are extremely full, so if you cancel, we probably won't be able to give you another date in advance, but will call you if a last-minute opening occurs.

We now have the ability for creditors to process claims transactions directly, under their own, special login and password. Creditors can file a proof of claim, transfer claims, withdraw claims, enter notice of appearance and request for service, etc. Call Kelli or Nancy to sign up.

Another improvement in the works is an upgrade to version 2 of CM/ECF. This will happen some time this fall. Version 2 will add some convenient features for e-filers (such as direct credit card payments), and will make the system ready to handle the security/privacy requirements that become effective December 1, 2003. We will let you know more on this as we get closer.

As of January 1, 2004, when e-filing becomes mandatory, paper copies of petitions will no longer be required to be sent to the trustees.

The next User's Group meeting will be held in both courtrooms on Friday, Sept. 12, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. I encourage everyone to attend.

For those of you not filing electronically, please note that the administrative procedures require excerpting lengthy exhibits before scanning them, so that only the portions "directly germane to the matter under consideration" are attached as exhibits. This is intended to decrease the time and expense required to download and print the documents.

Once again, we'd like to remind everyone that there is a standing order regarding the proper format for filings, which is available on the local rules page of this web site. These requirements are critical for the scanning of all documents, since the electronic file is now the official file of the court, and following them will help us create quality images.